

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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First Inventor: Chin-Ta Su	/
	/ Examiner: Rodney Glenn McDonald
Application No: 10/719,759	/
	/ Group Art: 1753
Filed: 11/20/2003	/
	/
For: METHOD OF IMPROVING	/
THERMAL STABILITY FOR	/
<u>COBALT SALICIDE</u>	/

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF – PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF: (1) NO NEW GROUNDS OF REJECTION
IN EXAMINER'S ANSWER; (2) COMPLETION OF APPEAL CONFERENCE;
AND (3) FORWARDING OF CASE TO BOARD FOR DECISION

Appellant submits this Request to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for a simple confirmation that the Examiner's Answer **did not raise any new grounds** of rejection.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 1207.01, Appellant requests a simple confirmation that the required **Appeal Conference has been conducted** and, to the extent so, that no decision on any issue affecting the process was made. Regarding (2) as framed above, according to the MPEP, Section 1207.01, an appeal conference is mandatory in all cases in which an acceptable brief (MPEP Section 1205) has been filed. It would appear that the conference indeed is proper in the present instance,

and, furthermore, that the conference should already have been conducted as a consequence of the e-signatures next to the typed names of the Conferees at the bottom of the Examiner's Answer, below the primary examiner's signature. The relevant MPEP section states that this layout should amount to "an appropriate indication" to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("the Board") that an appeal conference has been held, so, to make the occurrence that an appeal conference has been held clear for the Appellant, kindly confirm it.

Finally, please advise on whether this case has now been **forwarded to the Board** for a decision, and provide a **time estimate** as to when such action might take place.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any needed fees to deposit account 50-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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